

the discussion. As I was driving home last night and I was thinking about the vote yesterday, and that's when I do maybe some of my best thinking, it's too bad I can't record my speeches at that time and play them back for you because they would be absolutely, I'm sure you would all agree with me if you heard them. That's probably just my opinion; too. This is very difficult for me because as a, as a former county attorney and as one who, I'm sure if any of you who've been around here three or four years, you'd know I've taken my share of abuse on this floor on law enforcement issues and I've stood up for them and I've fought for them, and we've had some tough battles. And I will continue to do that. And so it is with a great deal of difficulty that I went to Senator Stuhr and Senator Hudkins this morning and said, despite my strong feelings about the issue, I'm going to support the reconsideration motion. And it's because, for two or three reasons, but primarily because realistically, I have to believe that we do not have time to accomplish all that we'd like to accomplish in this session. When I came down here this year I, I had several meetings with people in my district and I promised them and they gave me very, very clear instructions that if what I said was true, that the Legislature needs to deal with the tax issue and not the petition carriers, that we need to do something. And I know the Revenue Committee has worked hard and they're coming out with what we need to work on. But we haven't begun the work on the floor. And I think that's going to take some time. There are probably at least a few other issues, such as appropriations matters, that we have to deal with, we just simply have to deal with them. And that's not to say that Senator Stuhr's bill is not just as important as any other bill around. It is. But there's a time and a place for everything, and timing is extremely important in this process. And as important as the issue is, I think it's probably not the right time. And I am thankful that we had the vote yesterday. I am very... I want to commend Senator Stuhr and Senator Hudkins for their tenacity and their courage in bringing forward this issue. And I hope, regardless of whether they get to debate the thing on three readings this year or not, I hope they follow through with it because the vote yesterday, which I'm glad we had a chance to take, shows that there is a tremendous amount of support in this body for dealing with that issue. And given the right amount of time and the opportunity, I believe the body will deal with the issue. Now that's not to say that some of Senator Brashear's points are not well taken, some of Senator Chambers' points are